

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 and 22 are pending in this application. Claims 14-21 are withdrawn due to a restriction requirement. All pending claims stand rejected under various grounds. The Examiner has noted, however, that claims 2-10 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections.

**35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection**

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter with Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 2, and 4, as well as claim 22, are amended to provide an antecedent basis for "radiation" and, as the Examiner correctly points out, that our intent was to claim that radiation was coming from an "exposure source."

It is asserted that the amendments now overcome the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection.

**35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection**

Claims 1, 11, 12 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,228,540 to Kobayashi ("Kobayashi").

Kobayashi describes a process for heating photomask blanks (not a finished mask) as part of the process of manufacturing a mask. The problem Kobayashi is addressing is the difference in heating and cooling of the blank on the vertical edges of the blank. To make sure heating is uniform Kobayashi adds an "end-surface" use plate as well as a base plate as sources of heat to the blank. The examiner asserts that Kobayashi somehow supplies a filter through the "base plate" and "end surface use plate." However, the Examiner fails to show how these heat sources act as filters. There is no description of these plates as acting as filters and no discussion of "filtering" that Applicant can discern. And the plates are certainly not the filters as taught by Applicant and described and claimed in independent claims 1 and 22. In fact, it "appears" that the need to keep the two plates at different temperatures during the cooling process is because the heat from the base plate is not "filtered" and escapes to the edges of the blank. (see column 6, lines 60-65).

Since the Examiner has failed to show any teaching in Kobayashi that these plates act as filters, Applicant's invention, as set forth in claims 1, 11, 12, and 22, is not anticipated by Kobayashi and the Examiner's 102 (b) rejection must fail.

Thus the Applicants feel that all the claims are now in condition for allowance and both rejections are overcome.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections and the allowance of the current pending claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that the pending claims could be allowed with minor changes, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss an Examiner's Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: Richard M. Kotulak

Attorney for Applicants

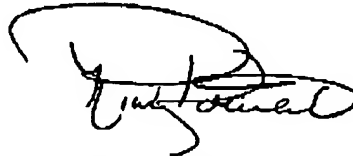
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**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

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Date: September 15, 2004

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